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No 78 50p

Ladybird Competition Inside!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry

ISSN 0954-9390

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THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! Welcome to Thomas the Tank Engine's very own magazine. . . which is 3 years old today! In this special issue, we have two splendid stories about Thomas, his friends and their exciting adventures on the Island of Sodor! Also, the mural returns and depicts a special anniversary celebration for Thomas. . . which is being held by the Fat Controller and his railway staff, on pages 10 and 11! Peep! Peep!

SPLENDID COMPETITION!

40 sets of learning games – from *Ladybird Toys and Games Ltd* must be won in our splendid competition, on page 7! Don't waste a moment. . . send your entry as soon as possible!

HELLO THERE!

The Fat Controller would like to say a special hello to the following readers:

Helen Seaman (22311), aged 4, **Mark Watson,** aged 2, **Owen Watson,** aged 4, **Geraint Grinter,** aged 6, **Arto Salonen (32842), Simon Lane (29622), Jonathon Wood (33954)** and **Amanda Trowbridge,** aged 5.

If you would like to receive a special mention on this page, just send your details to the Fat Controller at the address shown on the letters page. Don't forget to include your membership number too!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of this page! Send one **red, yellow** and **green** token together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

THOMAS TOKEN

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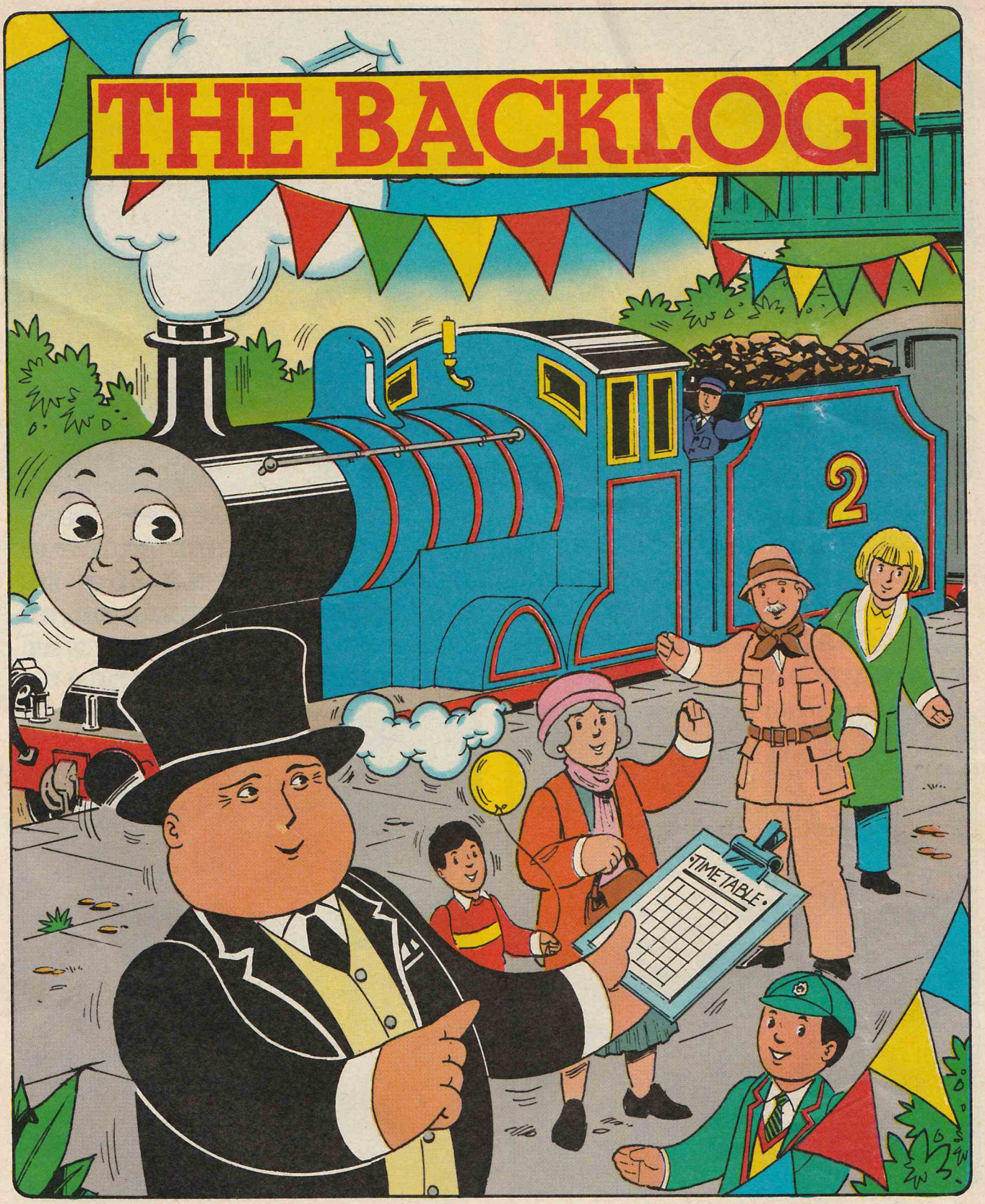
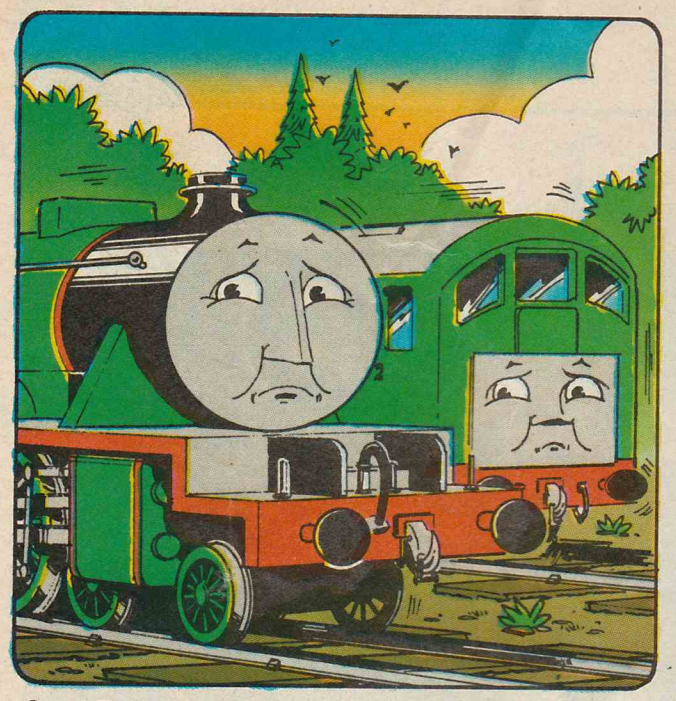
ABC

A listen and look story!

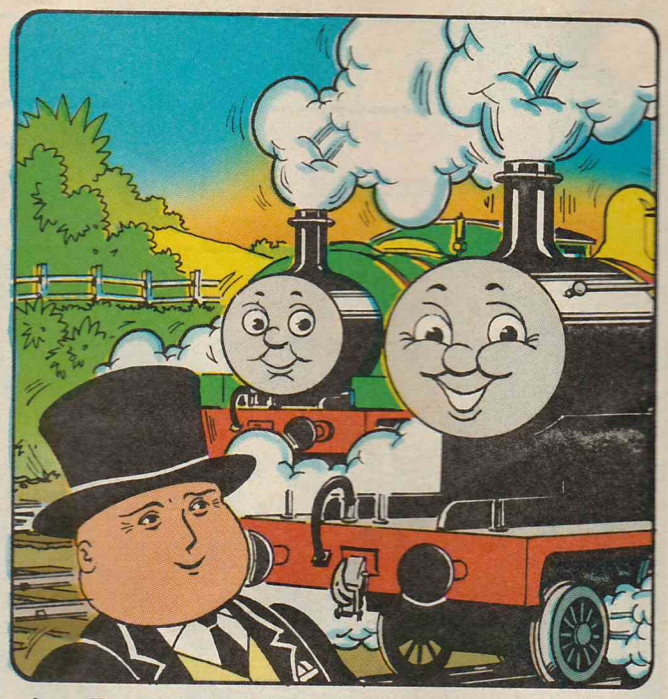


1. It was a very busy week on the Island of Sodor. Lots of visitors had come over from the mainland for the big harvest festival. It was a happy, festive time.

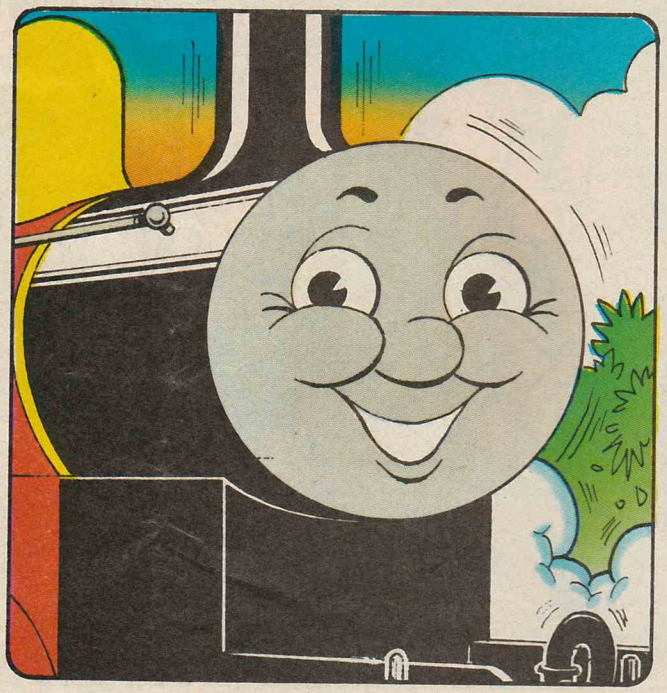
2. But for everyone on the railway, this meant extra work. The Fat Controller had to make sure there would be enough trains to carry all his passengers.



3. To make matters even worse, Henry and Boco were both at the works for repairs which simply had to be done. The Fat Controller had to change his timetables!

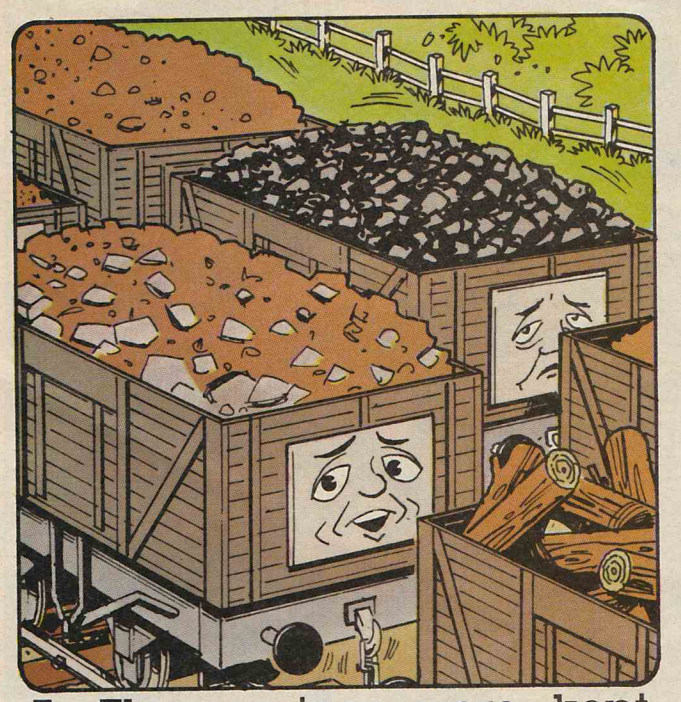


4. Percy and James were asked to stop their shunting work for the time being, so they could pull passenger trains instead. James was particularly excited!

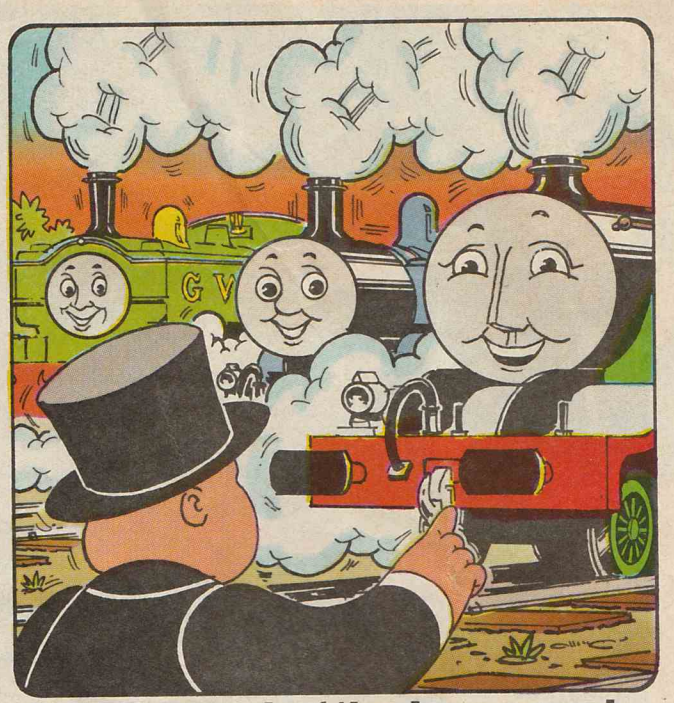


5. "The Fat Controller has asked **me** to pull the passenger train because my red coat is so splendid, " boasted James. "I shouldn't be shunting trucks anyway!"

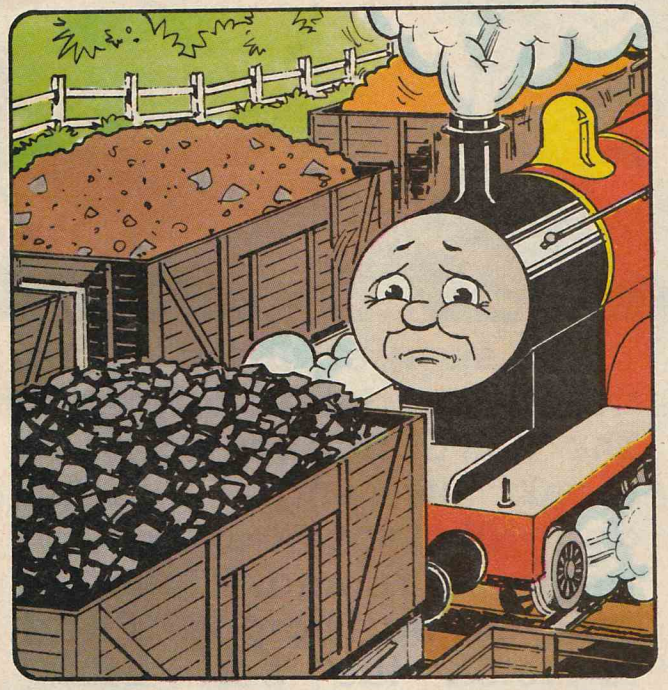
6. The festival was held near the Main Station. The Fat Controller's grandchildren, Steven and Bridget, merrily danced on the village green with the other children.



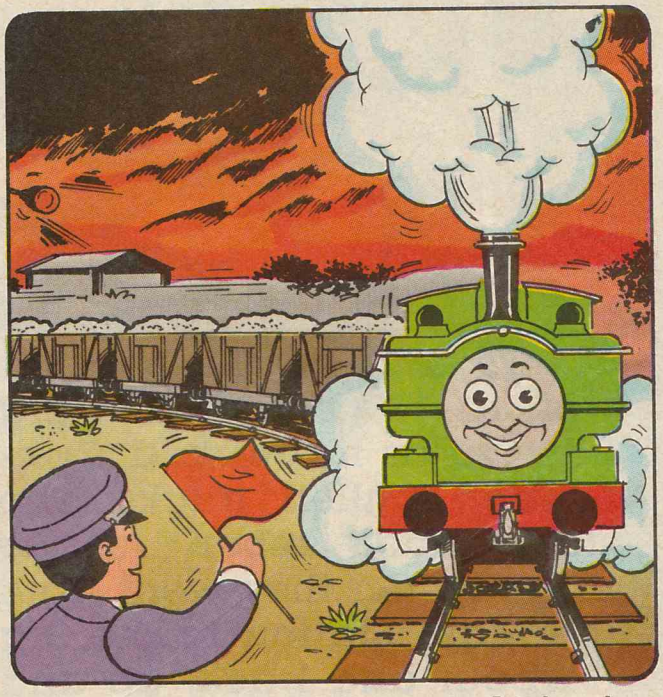
7. The engines were kept busy all week, pulling passenger trains. Meanwhile in the yard, the trucks were left on the sidings. There were no engines to pull them.



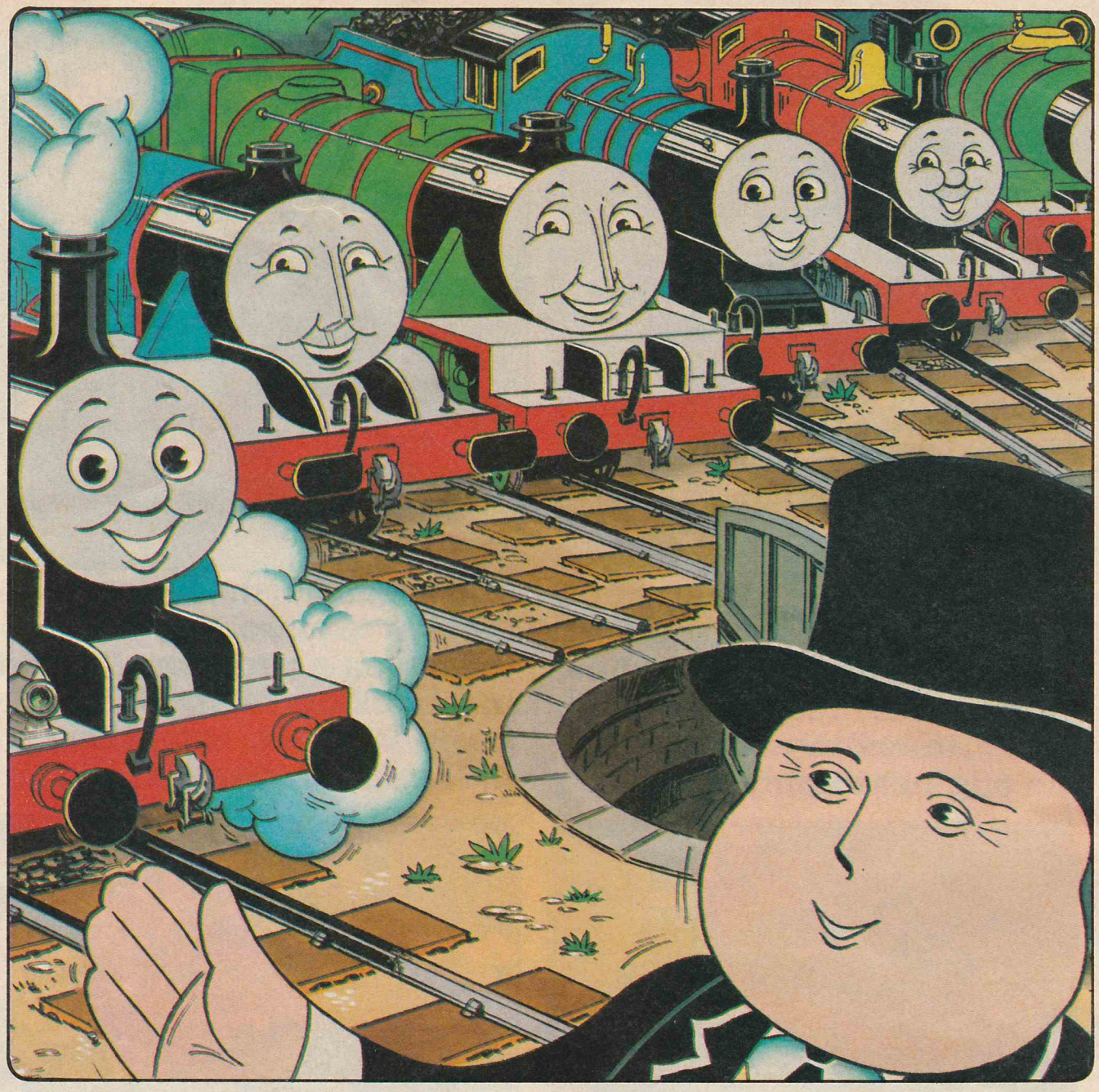
8. At the end of the busy week, the Fat Controller realized there was a problem. "There is a backlog of goods trains to be cleared!" announced the Fat Controller.



9. The Fat Controller gave the engines their instructions and they set to work. Percy and James were sent back to shunt trucks, much to James's disappointment!



10. As soon as a goods train was ready, an engine was there to pull it. All the engines worked into the night. The big lights shone on the yard so they could see.



11. On and on the engines worked. "We can do it!" sang Edward as he worked. Even Gordon pulled trucks. The stars and moon shone brightly. On they went from the Main Station to the Big Harbour and back, up and down from the quarries and clay pits, back and forth between the factories and along the branch lines.

12. By sunrise all the goods trains had been delivered. The Fat Controller came to thank his engines. "Well done all of you!" he said. "But where is Thomas?" "Here I am!" called Thomas. "I had to fetch the post train!" "Splendid!" said the Fat Controller, feeling very proud indeed of all his Really Useful Engines!

THE END

In our next issue: Diesel takes a tumble!

COMPETITION!

Win a set of 3 Ladybird Activity Packs!

40 sets of the 3 prizes shown must be won!

Each boxed set includes **18** colourful, wipe-clean activity cards, parent's booklet and comes complete with pencil and **special** pencil!

Colour in this picture of Thomas, his guard and passengers as brightly as you can! Fill in the entry form below and send this page to: *Thomas/ Ladybird Competition, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Name.....

.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.... Age....

My favourite part of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends is ..

.....

Ladybird Toys and Games

Closing date: Friday, 26th October 1990

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of Marvel Comics Ltd, Ladybird Toys and Games and Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

A read-aloud story!

The Disappearing Shovel!

It was Autumn on the Island of Sodor and the leaves had started to change colour. Red, orange, yellow and brown, they fell from the trees and covered the ground.

Edward was waiting on a siding, when his fireman arrived.

"Good morning, Edward!" he said. "I've brought you a new shovel!" He showed it to Edward proudly. Edward was pleased!

"Where's your driver?" asked the fireman.

shovel

"He's not here yet," replied Edward.

"That means I have time for a nice cup of tea!" said the fireman. He leaned the new shovel up against Edward's wheel and went over to the shed.

A little later he came back with Edward's driver. He was telling him about the new shovel.

"Just wait until you see it," he said.

Then the fireman stopped and looked surprised.

"What's the matter?" asked Edward's driver.

"My new shovel!" shouted the fireman. "It's gone! I left it just here, leaning on Edward's wheel!"

"How could a shovel disappear?" asked the driver.

"Someone must have borrowed it!" said the fireman.

They both asked Edward if he had seen anyone take it, but he hadn't.

"Someone must have crept up quietly," said the fireman.

"Why would anyone take our new shovel?" said Edward. "All the other engines have shovels of their own already!"

Just then, the Fat Controller arrived.

"Why are you still here, Edward?" he asked. "You have a train to pull!"

"Yes, sir," said Edward. "But, sir. . ."

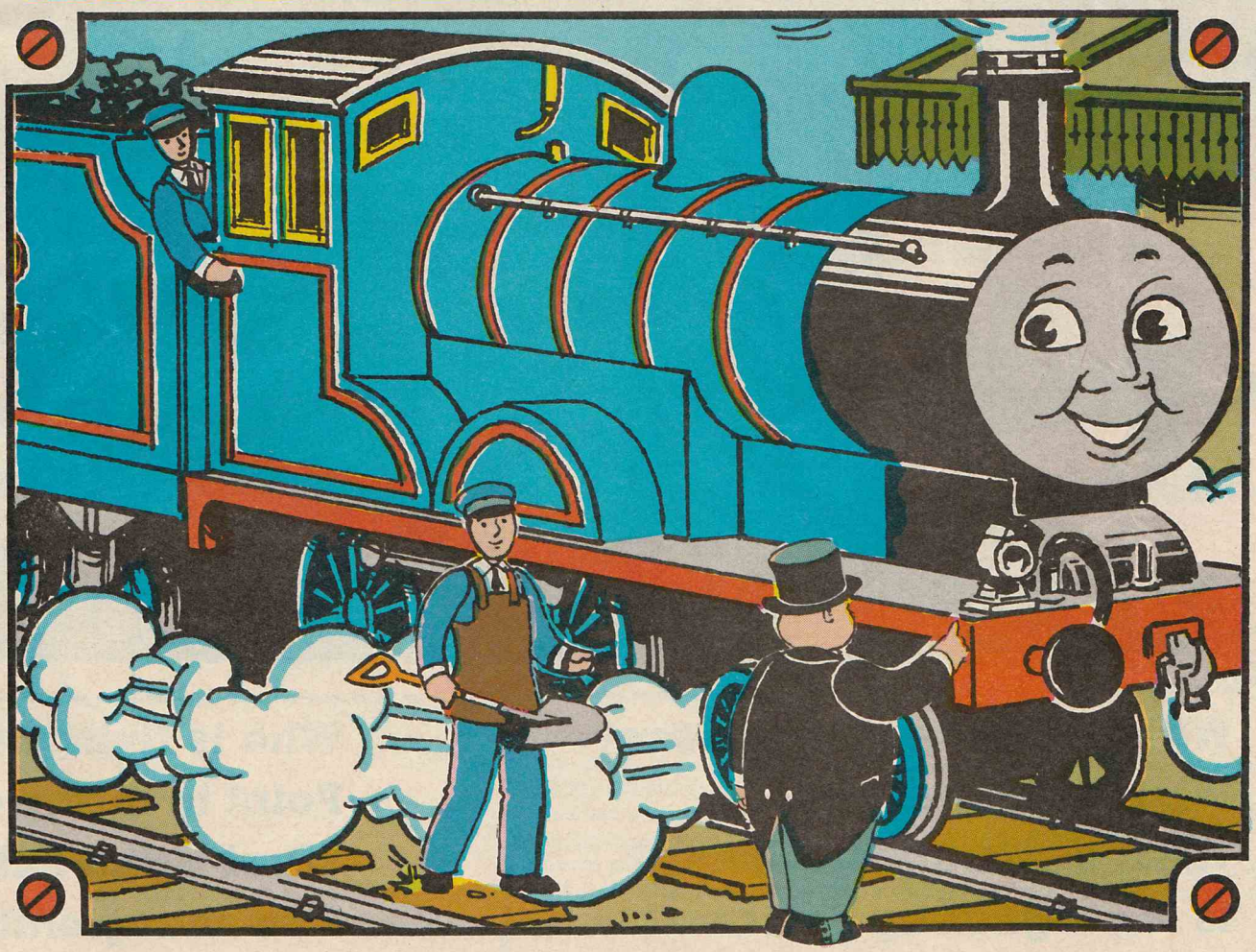
"Our new shovel has been stolen!" cried the fireman.

Clang! Just at that moment the Fat Controller bumped his foot on something under the autumn leaves. He bent down to see what it could be and pulled out. . . the new shovel!

"Is this what you are looking for?" he asked.

"Oh, yes sir. Thank you, sir," said the fireman. "It must have slipped down under the leaves!"

"Well, now you can use your splendid new shovel to fill Edward's firebox with coal and make lots of steam. The passengers must not be kept waiting!" said the Fat Controller. **THE END**



Time to cel

Which engine can you see?

What number is he?

What is his driver waving?

Is the signal up or down?

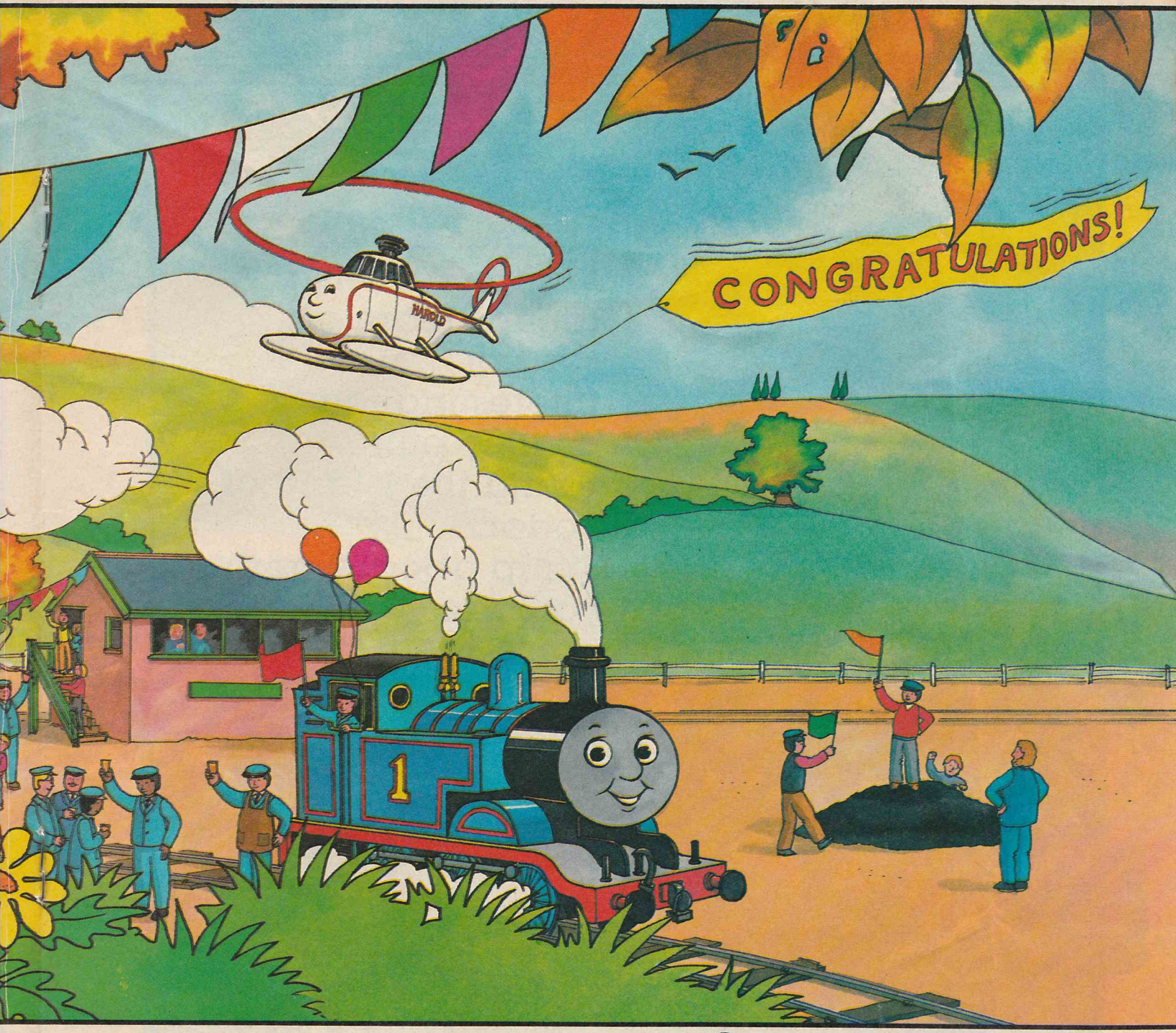
Who is flying high in th

Point to a tiny caterpill

What is the Fat Controll

How many children car

elebrate!



n in the sky?
erpillar!
ntroller holding?
n can you see?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

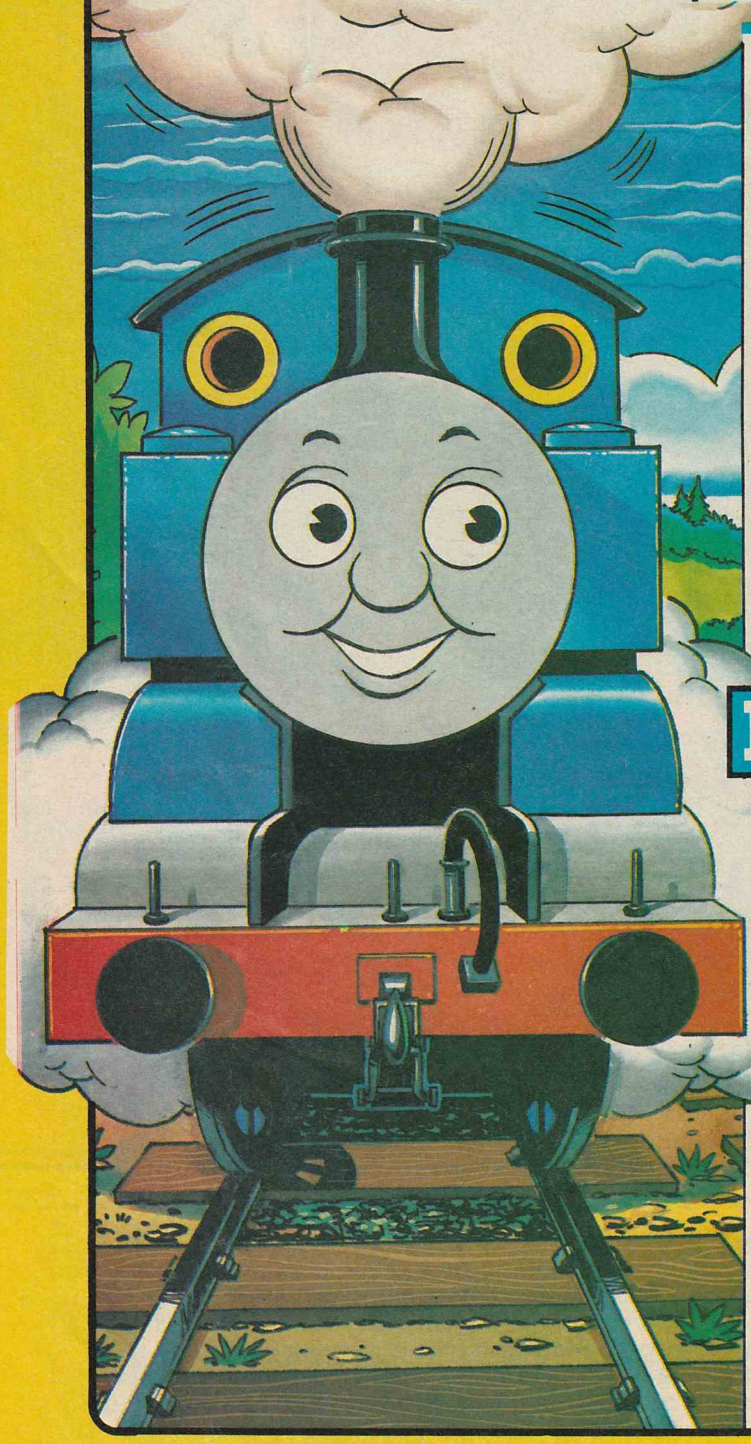
Next issue: Around the park!

IT'S FUN TO LEARN WITH

THOMAS

THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends learn all sorts of interesting things as they puff round the Island of Sodor.
Jump aboard and you can come too!

EVERY MONTH!

Learning is fun with THOMAS!

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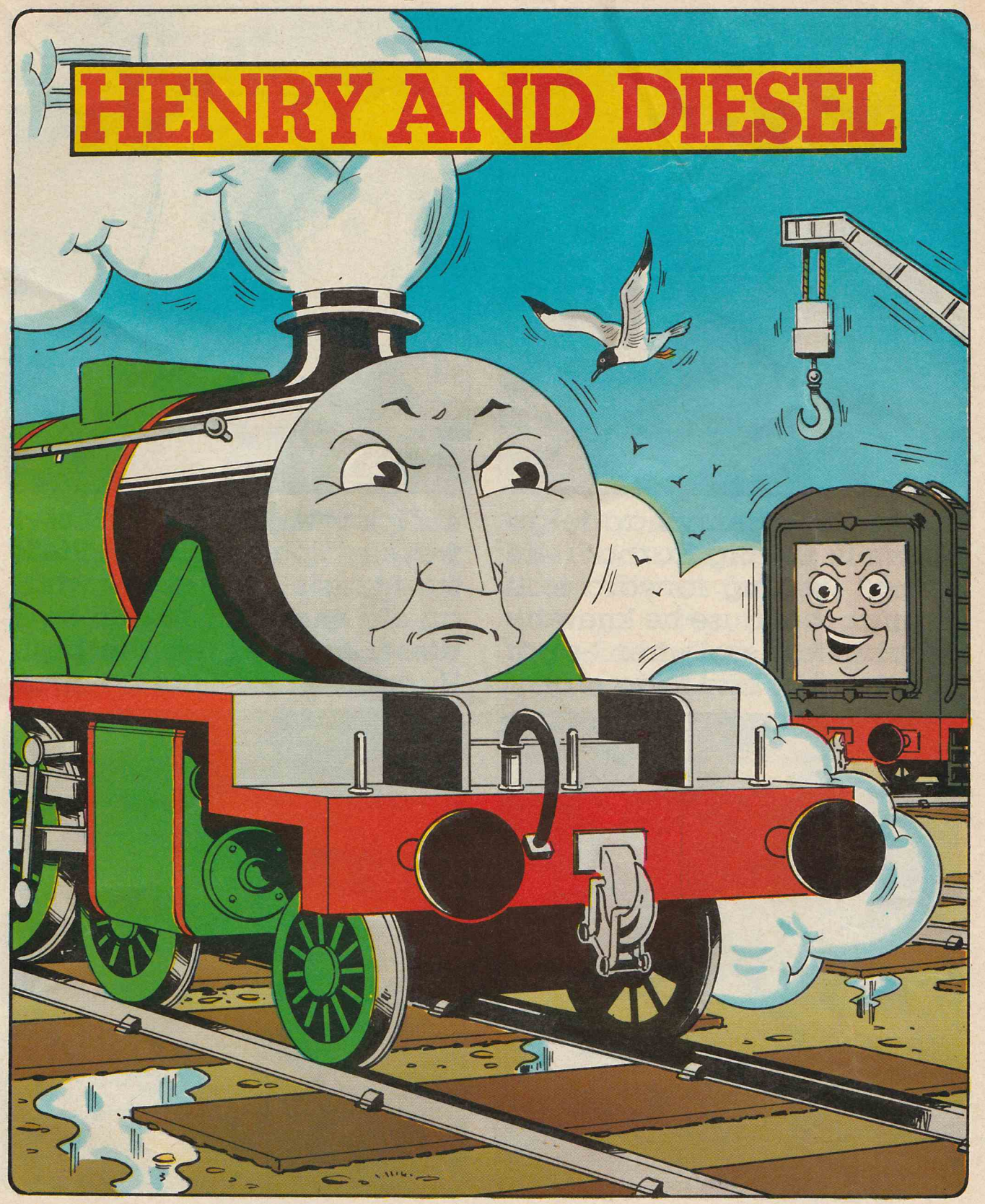
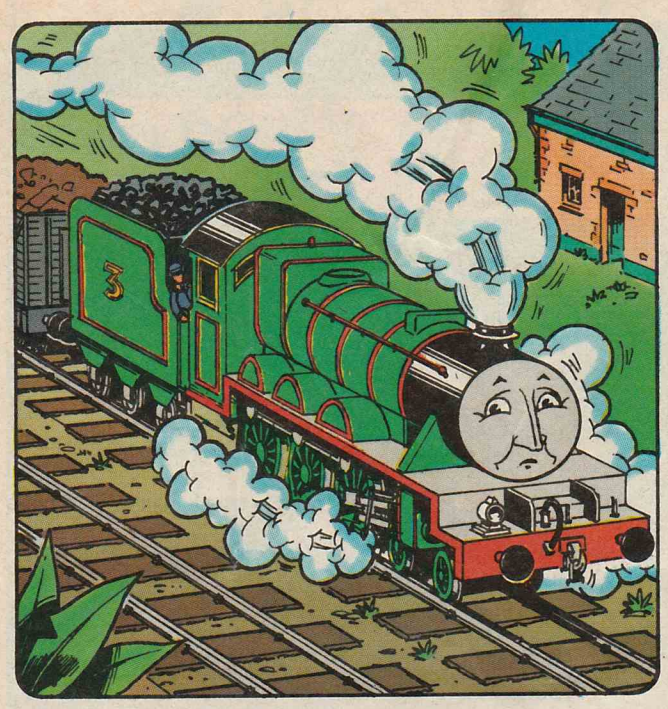
A listen and look story!

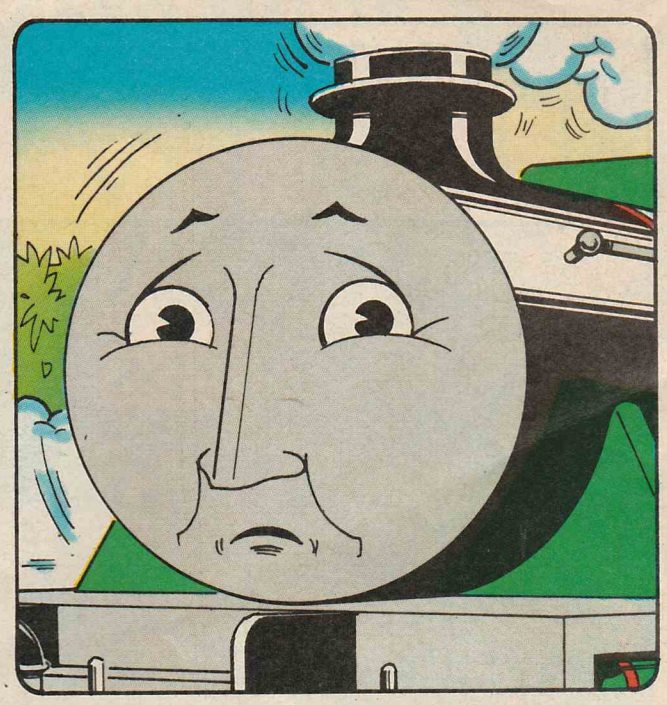


1. Henry is one of the oldest engines on the Fat Controller's railway. He used to look quite old-fashioned until he was given his new shape, of which he is very proud!

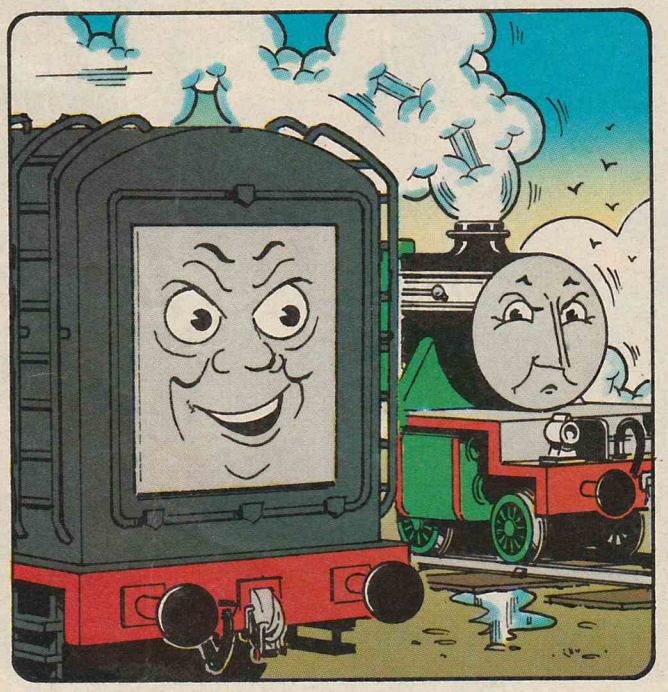
2. Henry did not like to work with Diesel at all. Diesel was always scheming and trying to cause trouble. He often teased the other engines in his oily voice, too!



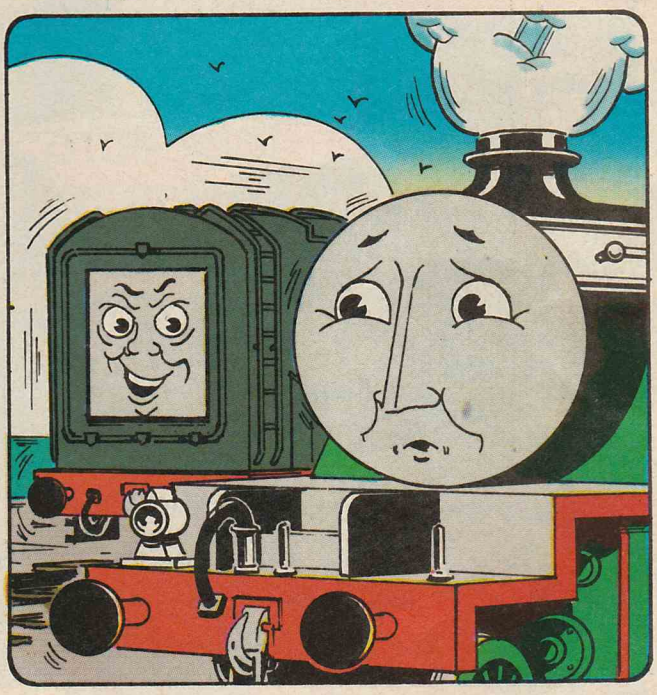
3. One day Henry had to go down to the Big Harbour. He wasn't looking forward to it though, because he knew he would see Diesel when he got there. But he had to go.



4. "I know just what Diesel will say," puffed Henry. "He'll start teasing me about what an old engine I am and how diesel engines are the best. Humph!"

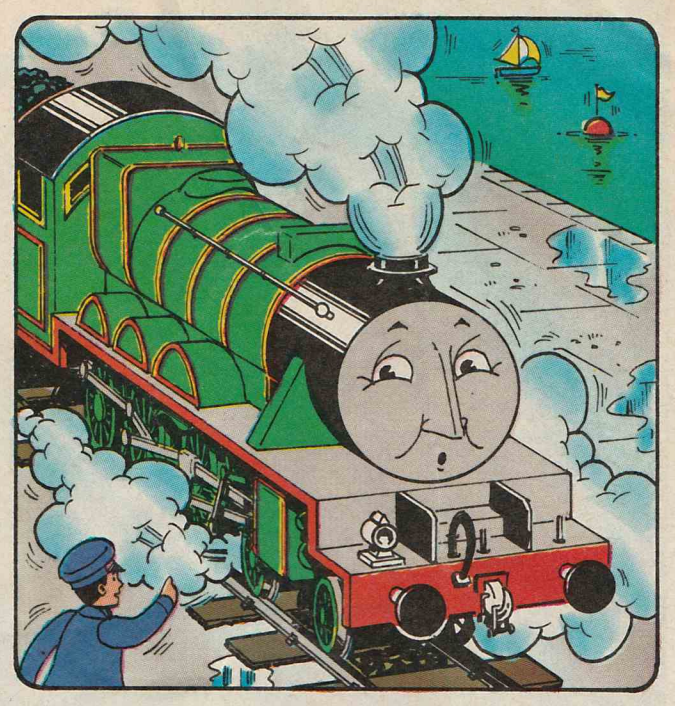


5. When Henry arrived at the Harbour Yard, Diesel was there, as he expected. "Where are you going, Creaky?" he said. "I'm surprised to see you're still working!"



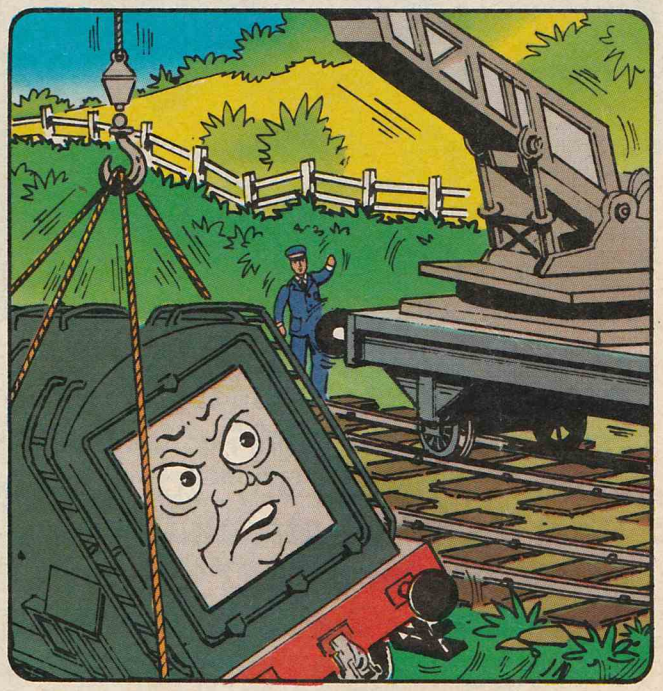
6. "Isn't it time you were retired to the scrap heap?" taunted Diesel. "I am still a Really Useful Engine!" replied Henry, crossly. "But you're just a... a..."

7. Diesel just chuckled in his smooth, oily voice and slipped away. "You should have called him 'Oily'," Percy told Henry. "Don't take any notice of him."



8. Henry was surprised when later that afternoon, the Harbour Stationmaster came running over to see him. "Diesel's had an accident on a siding," he told him.

9. "He's come off the rails, Henry," said the stationmaster. "You must take the crane to him." Henry was reluctant to go at first, but eventually pulled away.



10. When Henry arrived with the crane he saw Diesel looking very silly. Diesel had gone so fast around a bend that he had swerved right off the rails and onto his side.

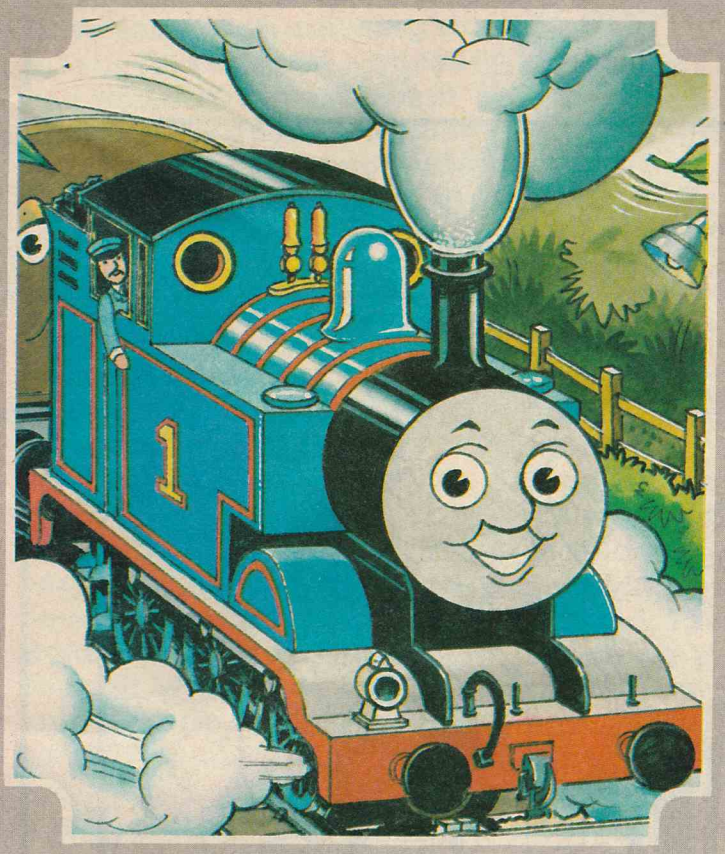
11. "Oh hello, Henry," whispered Diesel quietly, "what are you doing?" "I have come to help you," laughed Henry. "But you think I'm only good for scrap!" "Oh... er," spluttered Diesel, "there is nothing more useful than helping a Really Useful Diesel like myself!" Henry waited while the crane lifted Diesel back onto the rails.

12. As soon as Diesel began to move, Henry started to pull away with the crane. But the men hadn't locked the arm of the crane! **Bang!** Down it came on top of Diesel. "Ouch!" he cried. "You did that on purpose!" Henry just laughed. At last Henry felt as if he had repaid naughty Diesel for all the teasing that he'd had to endure.

THE END

In our next issue: The rescue!

Subscribe...



. . .to your child's favourite fortnightly magazine. . .

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

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.....

..... **Postcode** .....

Please supply me with **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for a year. I will allow 28 days for delivery.

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £16.50 (UK) or £33.00 (overseas) payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.

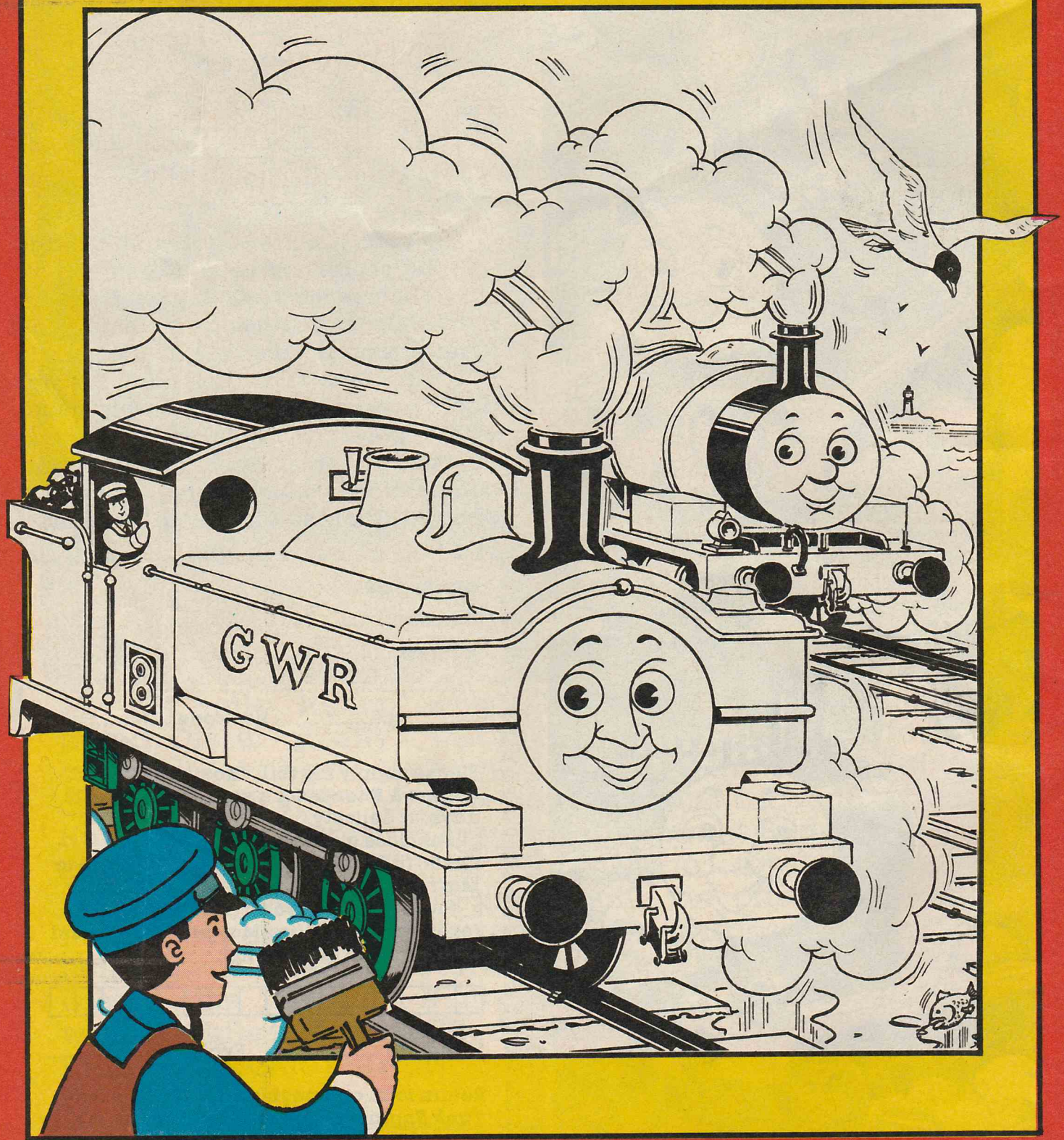
☐ Please charge £16.50 (UK) or £33.00 (overseas) to my Visa/MasterCard. My card number is (13 or 16 digits):

Signature ..... **Expiry date** .....

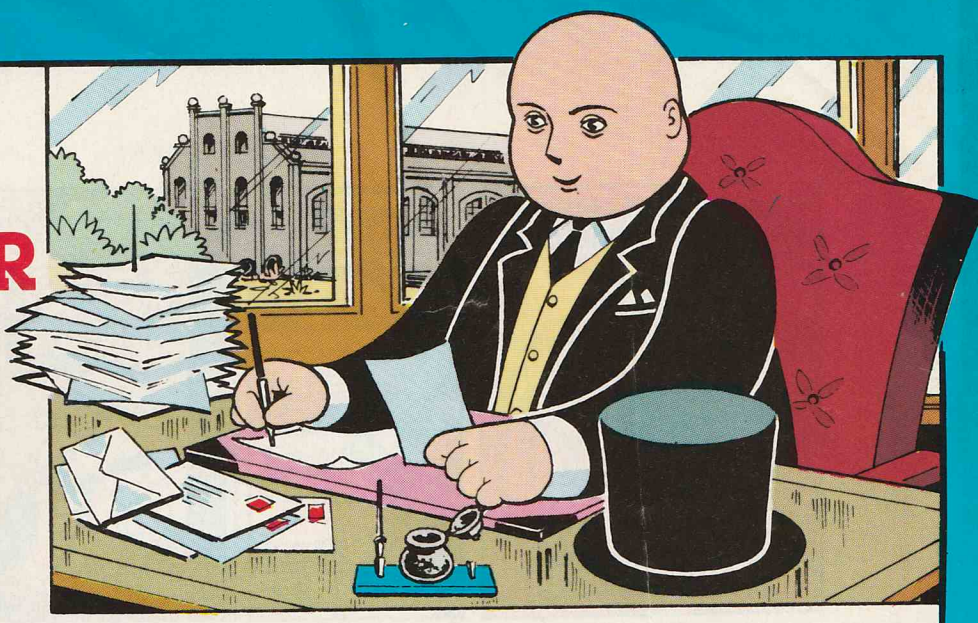
Return form and payment to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.*

COLOURING TIME!

Duck and Percy are working by the sea
Colour them both – as bright as can be!



Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER

Dear Fat Controller,
While we were on holiday my mummy and daddy bought me a mug with an engine on it called 'Mallard.' I like the engine 'Mallard', because it reminds me of **Gordon the Big Express Engine!** My brother has a mug with an engine on it called 'Evening Star!' Do you drink your tea out of a mug with an engine on?
From **Lyndon** (33109), aged 3.

Indeed I do! *I have a very special mug which is very dear to me. . . it has a splendid picture of* ***Thomas the Tank Engine*** *on it!*

Lyndon wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine lunchbox and carry flask – *from Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

A SPLENDID DAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
Last Sunday my daddy took me to 'The Ratty' at Eskdale. It's a small railway and I saw trains that looked just like Thomas, Percy and Donald. I really enjoyed watching the coalman shovelling coal into the furnace! I had a great day! Have you ever been to Eskdale?
Love from **Ryan,** aged 3.

I most certainly have! *And I totally agree with you, Ryan, Eskdale is a very enjoyable and entertaining place to visit indeed!*

A HELPING HAND!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do your grandchildren, Stephen and Bridget, ever help you or the guards on the railway on the Island of Sodor?
Lots of love from **Stephen,** aged 5.

Dear me, no! *The railway can be a very dangerous place for young children to be, without supervision. However, they frequently visit the stations and from a safe position, watch Thomas and his friends hard at work!*

BIRTHDAYS!

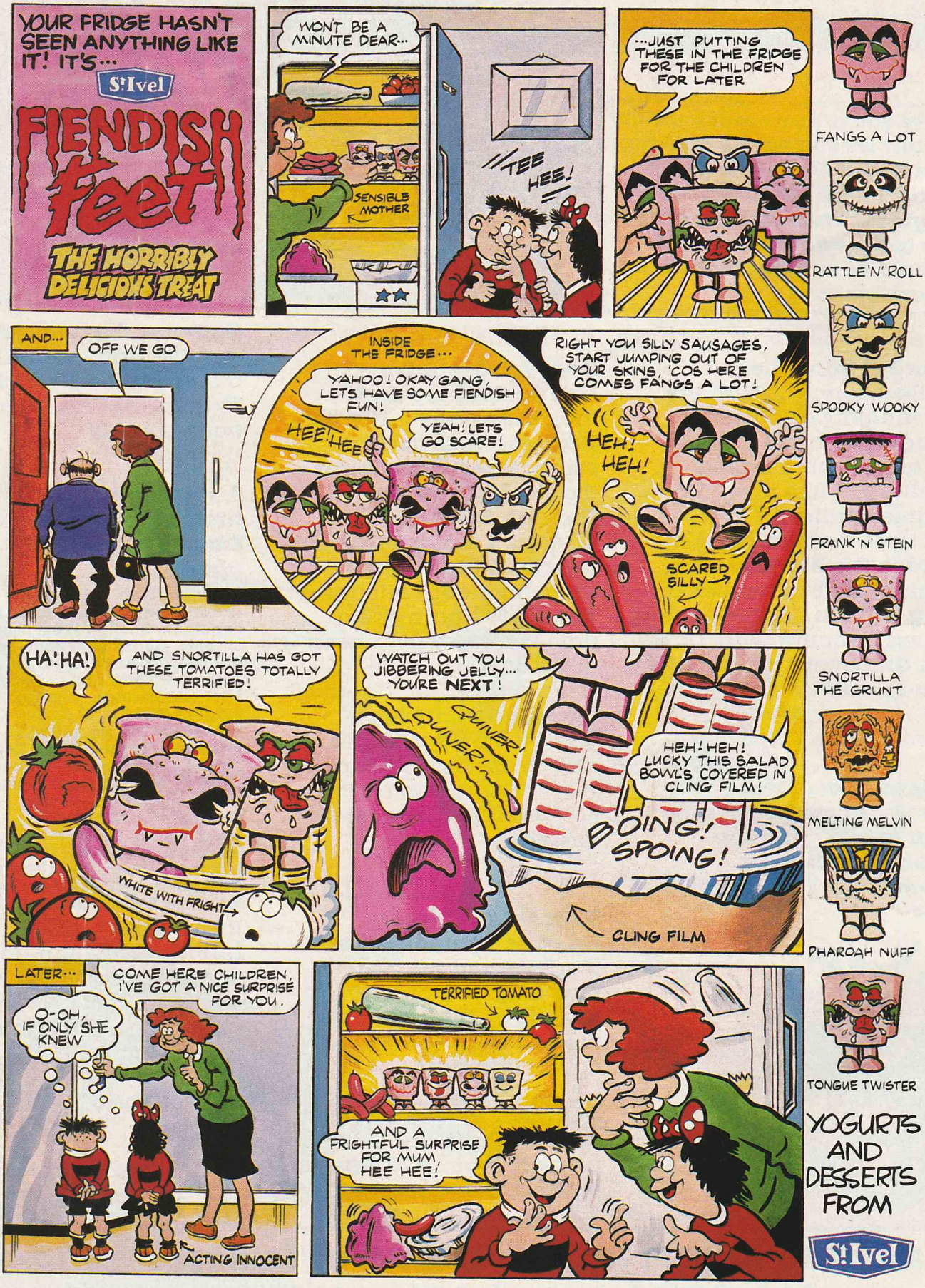
A special belated birthday wish goes to **Emma Gray (31741),** aged 4.

Sam Jonathon Gale, Oliver O'Hara, Simon Lane (29622), Jonathon Wood (33954), Ben Shipley, Christopher And, Laura Baldock, Alexander Harrison James, Paul Tindall (29749), Michelle Doridge, Graham Sargent (33270), Thomas Batchelor (29704), Michael Priestley, Jennifer Claire Leach (30174), Jamie Peter Cottage (29993), Peter Creegan, James Chapman (28920), Craig Waddington, Michael Marchlewski, Jamie Murray, Iain Marshallsay (29735), David Pritchard, Paul Dale (10762), David A. Russell (29354) Flora Gate and Tommy Osmond.

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt.
the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.


YOUR FRIDGE HASN'T SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! IT'S...
St Ivel
FIENDISH feet
THE HORRIBLY DELICIOUS TREAT
WON'T BE A MINUTE DEAR...
SENSIBLE MOTHER
TEE HEE!
...JUST PUTTING THESE IN THE FRIDGE FOR THE CHILDREN FOR LATER
FANGS A LOT
RATTLE 'N' ROLL
SPOOKY WOOKY
FRANK 'N' STEIN
SNORTILLA THE GRUNT
MELTING MELVIN
PHAROAH NUFF
TONGUE TWISTER
AND...
OFF WE GO
INSIDE THE FRIDGE...
YAHOO! OKAY GANG, LETS HAVE SOME FIENDISH FUN!
YEAH! LETS GO SCARE!
HEE HEE
RIGHT YOU SILLY SAUSAGES, START JUMPING OUT OF YOUR SKINS, 'COS HERE COMES FANGS A LOT!
HEH! HEH!
SCARED SILLY
HA! HA!
AND SNORTILLA HAS GOT THESE TOMATOES TOTALLY TERRIFIED!
WHITE WITH FRIGHT
WATCH OUT YOU JIBBERING JELLY... YOU'RE NEXT!
QUIVER! QUIVER!
HEH! HEH! LUCKY THIS SALAD BOWL'S COVERED IN CLING FILM!
BOING! SPOING!
CLING FILM
LATER...
COME HERE CHILDREN, I'VE GOT A NICE SURPRISE FOR YOU.
O-OH, IF ONLY SHE KNEW
ACTING INNOCENT
TERRIFIED TOMATO
AND A FRIGHTFUL SURPRISE FOR MUM, HEE HEE!
YOGURTS AND DESSERTS FROM
St Ivel